

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Sangamon County Historic Preservation Commission**  
**April 6, 2016**

**Members Present:** Chuck Pell, Chairman  
Robert Sherman, Vice Chairman  
Mike Brooks\*  
Jeanette Goza  
Jerry Jacobson  
Tina Lathan  
Aakash Raut  
James Schackmann  
Dean Williams  
Norm Sims

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Steve Keenan

**Call to Order:** A quorum being present, Chairman Pell called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM.

Chairman Pell explained that Commissioner Brooks wished to attend the Historic Preservation Commission [HPC] meeting via speakerphone due to employment purposes. A motion to allow Commissioner Brooks to attend the meeting by speakerphone was made by Commissioner Jacobson and was seconded by Vice Chairman Sherman. The voice vote to approve was unanimous. Commissioner Brooks acknowledged his presence at the meeting by speakerphone.

**Approval of Minutes:** Chairman Pell entertained a motion to approve the March minutes. Commissioner Jacobson read an email of minor revisions. A motion to approve the March minutes as amended was made by Commissioner Schackmann and was seconded by Commissioner Jacobson. The voice vote to approve was unanimous.

**Chairman's Report/Comments:** Chairman Pell indicated he was asked to participate in a story about a farmhouse entry on WCIA TV by Commissioner Brooks. He noted the home owners were very accommodating. Chairman Pell mentioned the Sangamon County Historical Society ran an article about the oldest farmhouse search in its newsletter *Historico*. Discussion ensued between Chairman Pell and Commissioner Jacobson about future meetings of the County's Historical Society. Chairman Pell encouraged the Commissioners to search for National Register sites in their townships. Vice Chairman Sherman asked if the video of the story about the farmhouse was online, to which Chairman Pell said he did not know. Chairman Pell said the story was shot on March 22.

**Committee Reports:** Chairman Pell recognized Commissioner Jacobson for the Oldest Farmhouse Committee report. Commissioner Jacobson said the Committee decided to extend the deadline for entries to May 1, 2016. He said a few late entries might be eligible for inclusion and this was a reason for changing the deadline. Commissioner Jacobson summarized some of the entries discussed at the Committee meeting. He said the Committee discussed planning for a potential event at the Sangamon County Fair.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** Chairman Pell recognized staff to discuss the New Business item. He noted the letter provided with the agenda was addressed to a railroad consultant rather than to the Norfolk Southern railroad. Staff presented a tower adjacent to the former Pillsbury Site in Springfield. Staff noted the HPC does not have jurisdiction for this tower as it is in Springfield. Staff mentioned this item is on the agenda so the HPC can make comments against or object to a tower in its jurisdiction if it so desires. Commissioner Jacobson suggested inserting a line to the effect of: “the SCHPC has no jurisdiction over incorporated local governments, only over unincorporated areas of the County.” He suggested ignoring letters outside the HPC’s jurisdiction. Vice Chairman Sherman suggested passing it on, with which Commissioner Sims concurred. Some discussion ensued among Chairman Pell, Vice Chairman Sherman, Commissioner Jacobson, and Commissioner Sims regarding whom to copy on the letter. Commissioner Sims mentioned it is courteous to include both Springfield Historic Sites and the Springfield Building and Zoning Department on the letter. He mentioned that while there may not be historic resource issues with this tower, perhaps there might be a zoning issue. The consensus appeared to favor sending the letter as written with some of Commissioner Jacobson’s comments. Chairman Pell asked for a motion. Commissioner Lathan noted she might check if a permit was filed with the City. Staff mentioned an earlier email from the Union Pacific consultant stating railroads might be exempt from zoning to the extent construction occurs in the railroad’s right of way. Commissioner Jacobson reiterated his comments from earlier.

A motion to approve sending the letter with amendments as discussed was made by Vice Chairman Sherman and was seconded by Commissioner Jacobson. The voice vote to approve was unanimous.

**Initial Recommendation for New Landmark Applications:** None.

**Member Reports:** Commissioner Williams reported the Buffalo Hart Presbyterian Church is interested in pursuing landmark status. He hoped to have a completed application soon. Later, he mentioned the Lincoln film won some awards. He also mentioned he might work on a documentary on the Illinois State Fair.

Commissioner Schackmann said some messages were posted on Facebook regarding the farmhouse search. Vice Chairman Sherman asked if a video of the farmhouse story could be added to Facebook. Chairman Pell asked Commissioner Brooks if the video from the farmhouse was turned, or could be turned, into a podcast. Commissioner Brooks was not sure.

Vice Chairman Sherman said he would be attending a National Barn Alliance meeting in April. After discussing with a colleague a travel route to see historic barns, he had a thought that perhaps people could travel by historic trails all over the country. Staff mentioned the Regional Planning Commission [RPC] has some resources on the Edwards Trace, an old trail slightly east of Springfield. Chairman Pell said that was an interest of Commissioner Raut. Commissioner Sims said if the HPC wants to package a set of visits or a trail then the HPC should see if the Springfield CVB (Convention & Visitors Bureau) wants to do anything with it. Chairman Pell mentioned Route 66 sites. Vice Chairman Sherman said there was a Native American trail going west as well. Commissioner Sims suggested a windshield tour. Vice Chairman Sherman also discussed several potential farmhouse entries. [Commissioner Brooks left the meeting at approximately 4:25 PM and returned at approximately 4:30 PM].

Commissioner Lathan said she found a farmhouse on Spaulding Orchard Road she thought was built in 1830. She said the house has remained in a family for its entire existence. Chairman Pell said the farmhouse could be a survey item and a potential farmhouse entry. He asked which township, to which Commissioner Lathan replied Curran.

**Staff Reports:** None.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Additional Comments:** Commissioner Lathan asked for clarification if unincorporated meant anything outside Springfield. Chairman Pell said anything to be surveyed could be in unincorporated Sangamon County. He mentioned the two preservation bodies in Sangamon County are the HPC and the Springfield Historic Sites Commission. Chairman Pell said the other municipalities do not have historic preservation bodies. He said there are historic resources in other municipalities, but the charge of the HPC is unincorporated Sangamon County. Commissioner Sims said the HPC could act as an historic preservation body in a municipality if an [intergovernmental agreement (IGA)] is in place. He said for instance if there is a unique site in Williamsville, an IGA must be in place before the HPC could landmark that site. Chairman Pell said in the consideration of an IGA, a municipality should weigh whether it wants to grant the HPC jurisdiction in its building permitting process. He acknowledged it can be tough to know incorporated versus unincorporated areas especially near Springfield. Vice Chairman Sherman asked if there must be an IGA before the HPC does something in a municipality. Chairman Pell said an IGA would not be needed to survey a particular site. He said action on an item, e.g. landmarking, would require an IGA because neither the HPC nor the County Board has jurisdiction to landmark something inside a municipality absent an agreement.

**Adjourn:** Chairman Pell entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jacobson made a motion to adjourn the April meeting with Commissioner Brooks seconding the motion. The voice vote to approve was unanimous and the meeting adjourned at 4:34 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Steve Keenan

\* Attendance by speaker-phone